

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KUALA 01125 171001Z

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGRE-00  
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00  
H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
NSF-02 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 SAL-01 /153 W

-----171007Z 075738 /10

P R 170835Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6295

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

US MISSION UN NEW YORK 869

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 1125

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, MY, US

SUBJECT: LOS: MALAYSIA STRAITS POSITION

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 1096 (NOTAL)

1. KUALA LUMPUR NEWSPAPERS CARRIED STORIES THIS MORNING  
(FEB 17) OF PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY LAW MINISTER/ATTORNEY  
GENERAL TAN SRI KADIR YUSOF YESTERDAY. ACCORDING TO THESE  
REPORTS, KADIR EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT THE MARITIME  
POWERS WILL SUPPORT MALAYSIA'S AMENDMENTS TO THE RSNT  
WHICH HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BECAUSE PRESENT PROVISIONS ON  
"TRANSMIT PASSAGE" INADEQUATELY PROTECT ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF COASTAL STATES. MOST IMPORTANTLY,  
MALAYSIA DESIRES TO CONTROL THE TRAFFIC OF VERY LARGE  
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CRUDE CARRIERS THROUGH AN UNDERKEEL CLEARANCE LIMITATION  
OF 3.5 METERS. THIS LIMITATION, HE REPORTEDLY SAID,  
WOULD BE ADEQUATE TO ENSURE A MARGIN OF SAFETY AND  
THEE WOULD BE NO NEED TO LIMIT TONNAGE.  
ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, MALAYSIA HAS "RELAXED"  
ITS PREVIOUS DEMAND ON PRIOR NOTIFICATION AND  
JAPANESE TANKER OWNERS HAVE INCREASED THEIR

CONTRIBUTION TO A "REVOLVING FUND" TO DEAL WITH  
POLUTION DISASTERS IN THE STRAIT TO US\$1.3 MILLION.

2. KADIR REPORTEDLY SAID THAT A NUMBER OF MARITIME  
POWERS SUPPORTED MALAYSIA'S POSITION ON THE NECESSARY  
PROVISIONS TO SAFEGUARD THE STRAIT, NOTING THAT  
BRITISH AND JAPENSE LOS DELEGATIONS HAD BEEN IN  
KUALA LUMPUR TO CONSULT WITH HIM IN THE PAST THREE  
WEEKS. HE ALSO IS QUOTED AS ANNOUNCING A VISIT BY  
AN AMERICAN DELEGATION ON MARCH 28 AND HIS OWN  
TRIPS TO THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE MEETING IN BAGHDAD FEB 19-26 AND TO THE  
EVANSEN MEETING IN GENEVA FEB 28-MARCH 11. KADIR  
SAID THE RUSSIANS HAVE INVITED HIM TO MOSCOW IN  
MID-APRIL BUT PRESS REPORTS DID NOT SAY WHETHER HE  
WOULD GO.

3. COMMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT  
ABOUT THE UKC IN MALAYSIA AND THE FIRST INDICATION  
OF AN EVOLVING MALAYSIAN POSITION. KADIR APPARENTLY  
SAID NOTHING ABOUT FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN  
SIGNING THE TSS IN MAANILA ON FEB 24.  
UNDERHILL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW OF THE SEA, PRESS COMMENTS, STRAITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 KUALA LUMPUR 1096  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3298334  
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**Subject:** LOS: MALAYSIA STRAITS POSITION  
**TAGS:** PLOS, MY, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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